

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application for Approval)	
of an Interconnection Agreement between)	
Steeleville Telephone Exchange, Inc., d/b/a STE)	<u>File No. IK-2025-0248</u>
Communications and Level 3 Communications, LLC)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its *Recommendation* as follows:

1. On March 12, 2025, pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-28.013(2)(A), Steeleville Telephone Exchange, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications ("STE") filed their *Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017* between themselves and Level 3 Communications, LLC ("Level 3") under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

2. On April 4, 2025, the Commission ordered that Level 3 be made a party to this case and set a deadline for intervention by any other parties of April 19, 2025. In addition, the Commission also ordered Staff to file a recommendation advising approval or rejection of the agreement in this case by May 5, 2025.

3. 47 USC 252(e)(2) (1996) provides that a state commission may reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation only if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

4. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or

necessity. A copy of the Agreement was filed with the Application. STE is certified with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange and an interexchange telecommunications company, along with being a registered IVoIP provider. Level 3 is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

5. Additionally, based on the STE's declarations that it has not had communications with the Commission within the prior 150 days regarding substantive issues likely to be in this case, included in its application, Staff recommends approval of the requested waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

6. As of the date of this filing, no entities have intervened or requested a hearing. Neither STE nor Level 3 are delinquent in any required filings with the Commission.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve STE's *Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017*, and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tracy D. Johnson

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, to all parties or their representatives pursuant to the Service List maintained by the Commission's Data Center for this file, on this 5th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Tracy D. Johnson